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# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

# NEWS

## URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

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FOR RELEASE WEDNESDAY  
January 14, 1970

Secretary of Transportation John A. Volpe today announced a \$524,000 grant for a preliminary engineering and feasibility study of a high-speed transit system in a 10-mile corridor between Buffalo and Amherst, New York.

The State University of New York at Buffalo is building a \$600 million campus at Amherst. Expected to be completed in 1975, the new campus would serve more than 50,000 students, faculty and staff.

Secretary Volpe said the proposed transit line "will do more than merely link downtown Buffalo with the Amherst campus. The line would pass along Buffalo's Model City neighborhood, opening new opportunities for inner city residents.

"Major commercial developments in downtown Buffalo are starting and the transit study will insure coordinated development. A sizable new town is being planned near the Amherst campus, and obviously site locations for both the town and the transit facility should be established in concert."

The study will also include developing a transit improvement program aimed at coordinating and upgrading bus transportation in Erie and Niagara Counties, New York. These two counties have a current population of more than 1.3 million.

The Buffalo-Amherst corridor study will establish the technical and economic feasibility of a particular transit system; define right-of-way needs; establish construction and operating costs; analyze system impacts on land use, development and redevelopment and overall urban design; and recommend a financial plan to guide implementation of the system.

More than a dozen bus companies now serve Erie and Niagara Counties. The study will analyze the problems of these companies in a unified way and develop a program with priorities for the entire region as a basis for future transit improvements.

The Federal grant was made by the Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration. It represents two-thirds of the \$786,000 cost of the study. The State of New York Department of Transportation will contribute \$196,500. The balance will come from local sources.

Project No. NY-T9-4

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